

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please CANCEL claims 11 and 16 without prejudice to or disclaimer of their subject matter.

1-16. (Cancelled)

17. (Previously Presented) An image forming apparatus in which after a toner image formed on an image bearing member provided in an image forming portion is transferred to a sheet, the toner image is fixed in a fixing portion, said image forming apparatus comprising:

a sheet feeding portion, which feeds stored sheets one by one;

a sheet transport path, said sheet transport path being disposed between said sheet feeding portion and said fixing portion, wherein the sheet transport path has a curved sheet transport path portion; and

ribs disposed between the curved sheet transport path portion and the fixing portion in said sheet transport path,

wherein the ribs press a swelling portion occurring on a surface of the envelope curved by the curved sheet transport path portion in the event the envelope is fed out by said sheet feeding portion as the sheet.

18. (Previously Presented) An image forming apparatus according to claim 17, wherein a distance between said ribs and the envelope is set to a value in a range between 0.5 mm and 3.0 mm.

19-20. (Cancelled)

21. (Previously Presented) An image forming apparatus according to claim 17, wherein said ribs are disposed at a location facing each of opposite end portions of the envelope with respect to a direction perpendicular to a transport direction of the envelope being passed through said sheet transport path.

22. (Previously Presented) An image forming apparatus according to claim 17, further comprising two pairs of rotary members provided in said sheet transport path for transporting the sheet and disposed along a direction perpendicular to a sheet transport direction, and holding means for rotatably holding said respective rotary members which are to be brought into contact with the inner-side surface of the curved envelope at said two pairs of rotary members, and wherein said ribs are disposed in said holding means.